

COUNCIL COMMITTEE

The Regular Session of the Council Committee of the Municipality of the County of Colchester was conducted virtually, via Zoom Webinars on Thursday, March 10, 2022, beginning at 6:00 pm.

In peace and friendship, and in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, Deputy Mayor Stewart acknowledged that the Municipality of Colchester is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.

Roll Call

The roll was called with the following Councillors in attendance:

Mayor Christine Blair	
Councillor Eric Boutilier	District 1
Councillor Laurie Sandeson	District 2
Deputy Mayor Geoff Stewart, Chair	District 3
Councillor Mike Cooper	District 4
Councillor Tim Johnson	District 5
Councillor Karen MacKenzie	District 6
Councillor Michael Gregory	District 7
Councillor Lisa Patton	District 8
Councillor Marie Benoit	District 9
Councillor Victoria Lomond	District 10
Councillor Wade Parker	District 11

Staff Present

Rob Simonds, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
 Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works
 Scott Fraser, Director of Corp. Services/Acting Director of Solid Waste
 Paul Smith, Director of Community Development
 Dennis James, Municipal Solicitor
 Tracey Veno, Recording Secretary
 Devin Trefry, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer
 Peter McCracken, Manager of Strategic Priorities & Corporate Planning
 Jenn Mantin, Economic Development Officer
 Craig Burgess, Recreation Manager
 Dave Westlake, Emergency Management/Protect Services Coordinator
 Mollie MacBurnie-Haas, IT Support

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Parker

“That the agenda be approved with the following amendments:

- Add Item No. 6b, Videoconferencing Policy. Carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That the minutes of the meetings held on February 10 and March 1, 2022, be approved as presented.” Carried unanimously.

Business Arising from Minutes

None

ACTION ITEMS**Civic Address Signage**

Dave Westlake, Protective Services/Emergency Management Coordinator, advised that in late 2021, Council directed that staff look into County wide

civic address signage. A detailed report of staff's findings was provided including background information on the County's civic addressing undertaking to date; feedback from fire and emergency services partners with concern regarding the lack of signage in some areas; preference for standardized signage; some other municipalities having policies or by-laws; education on the importance of civic addressing signage; and concerns regarding enforcement should Council wish to implement a policy.

Points of discussion on civic addressing signage included location/placement being an issue; availability from some fire departments throughout the County; requirements through the building permit process for all new builds; existing properties without signage being required to obtain; making signage available from the County offices; posting a list of providers on the County website; local fire departments working with insurance companies; and development of a policy. Concern was expressed with making existing properties without standardized signage being required to obtain.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Benoit

"That staff be directed to create a policy or by-law that addresses a civic address program inclusive of standardized signage and enforcement provisions including requirement through all new building permits being issued." Carried unanimously.

Silverwood Drive Paving

Michelle Boudreau, Director of Public Works, advised that this item deals with the award of tender for the repaving of Silverwood Drive and provided a summary of the tender process, options included in the tender, and a summary of submissions received. Costin Paving & Contracting was the low bidder and that bid was deemed to be complete. Staff's recommendation is to award the tender to Costin Paving & Contracting.

Brief discussion was held on the two options included in the tender with concern over choosing one option over the other being the difference of the low bid submission.

Moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Sandeson

"That Council Committee recommends to Council that the tender for the paving of Silverwood Drive be awarded to Costin Paving & Contracting for a total contract price of \$114,900 excluding HST; and,

That an internal contingency of \$5,000 be approved, to be spent only on authority of the Director of Public Works." Motion carried (Councillors Johnson and Parker opposed).

Council Videoconferencing Policy

Devin Trefry, Research, Policy and Community Engagement Officer, provided an overview of the Council Videoconferencing Policy noting that the Policy is before Council for consideration to allow virtual meetings of Council, or members of Council to attend meetings virtually beyond the current provincial state of emergency. Staff are suggesting a few amendments to the Policy as circulated: 1) title be changed to Council Virtual Meetings Policy, which would be consistent with language in the MGA; inclusion of reference to inclement weather under section 6, if permissible; and, adding language under section 9(2) regarding virtual attendance while away on municipal business.

Detailed debate was held with concern expressed regarding the limited allowable number of time members would be permitted to attend virtual meetings and having the inclusion of other committees of Council in the Policy. Staff advised of the time sensitivities with getting a Policy implemented prior to the lifting of the State of Emergency. Indications are that it could be lifted as soon as March 21st and if this is the case, without a Policy, Council would not be permitted to meet virtually for the end of month meeting. It was suggested that the Policy be implemented with the noted amendments with the Policy being brought back to discussion and further revisions in the near future.

Moved by Mayor Blair and Seconded by Councillor Sandeson

“That Council Committee recommends to Council the adoption of the Council Videoconferencing Policy with the following amendments:

- Title change to Council Virtual Meetings Policy;
- Inclusion of inclement weather clause, if permissible; and,
- Section 9(2) to address virtual attendance when Council members are away on municipal business.” Carried unanimously.

In order to have the Policy implemented prior to the end of the month, Council agreed to a Special Council meeting immediately preceding the Grants Presentation meeting scheduled for March 14th.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Community Park Funding Program – Winter 2022 Applications

Two applications were received under the Community Trail Funding Program for the Winter deadline. The Brookfield Athletic Association requested \$21,037, 50% of the total project cost, for construction of a small ball field at Elk Park. The second application, from Great Village Elementary School Playground Committee, requested \$40,000, 21% of estimated project cost, for playground upgrades. Staff have approved the grants in the requested amounts, pending confirmation of other funding and as well as the 2022-23 budget approval.

Moved by Councillor Boutilier and seconded by Councillor Benoit

“That the report on Community Park Funding Program – Winter 2022 Applications be received for information.” Carried unanimously.

Debert Airport

Jenn Mantin, Economic Development Officer, made a presentation on the Debert Airport. Highlights of the presentation included history and timelines of the Debert Business Park; an overview of current airport operations with information on the Truro Flying Club, privately owned hangars, and Debert Aviation Centre; aircraft movement; revenues and expenses; details and maps of runways; infrastructure improvements and investment required; and potential opportunities. Concluding her presentation, Ms. Mantin indicated that the Airport is a valued community and economic asset, however, it is unlikely that economic growth will be recognized without key infrastructure improvement and capital investment in the future.

Detailed discussion took place on a number of issues including the Truro Flying Club contract; current leases at the hangar; runway resurfacing; fuel sales; potential business opportunities; hangar investment to date; required upgrades; maintaining ownership vs. selling; developing a business plan; and having a property evaluation done.

Referring to the hangar investment, Ms. Boudreau indicated the estimated total is \$2.5 million and that an update will be prepared for Council in the near future. Ms. Mantin explained that this evening's presentation was to provide information to Council on the Debert Airport. Further discussion will need to take place, some in closed session, at a later time, for strategic planning and decision making.

Moved by Councillor Benoit and seconded by Councillor Johnson

"That the staff presentation on the Debert Airport be received." Carried unanimously.

Director's Report

A report from the Director of Community Development was circulated in the package for tonight's meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Patton and seconded by Councillor Gregory

"That the meeting go into closed session at 8:48 pm." Carried unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Gregory and seconded by Councillor Patton

"That the meeting reconvene in open session at 9:51 pm." Carried unanimously.

Negotiations – Truro Flying Club Contract

Moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Benoit

"That Council Committee recommends to Council the renewal of a one-year contract with the Truro Flying Club as negotiated by the CAO and on the advice of the Municipal Solicitor." Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Benoit and seconded by Councillor Patton

"That the meeting adjourn at 9:53 pm." Carried unanimously.

Tracey Venio
Recording Secretary